Dr. Frank J. Welch, executive vice-president of The Tobacco Institute, addressed the Burley Auction Warehouse Association.

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Forces Held Trying To Destroy Leaf Industry

By ERNEST L. CLARK
Courier-Journal Farm Editor

French Lick, Ind., June 10—Two speakers at the Burley Auction Warehouse Association's 17th annual convention here Monday blasted "antitobacco" forces at work trying to destroy the tobacco industry and both called for a marshaling of forces to fight it.

Edwin P. Finch, executive vice-president of Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation, Louisville, said antitobacco activities have been revived in recent years and the attacks are based on the health issue.

Finch, slated to become president of the cigarette-making company early in 1964, declared:

"We know of organized efforts throughout the nation to campaign vigorously against the use of tobacco. These efforts are intensifying and we may find matters coming to a head in the next few months."

Report Expected

He referred to a report expected from the surgeon general of the United States on the effects of cigarette smoking and the final results of legislation now before Congress which would affect labeling and advertising of cigarettes.

Dr. Frank J. Welch, executive vice-president of the Tobacco Institute, Washington, said there are three distinct threats to the industry on the national level.

One is a bill that would require labeling the active tars and nicotine content of each package. In testimony before Congress 13 laboratories were unable to agree on how this would be done, he said.

The other two bills would restrict the advertising, sale, and distribution of cigarettes by placing regulation of the industry under the Pure Food and Drug Administration.

Points To Questions

Welch, a former dean of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture and former assistant secretary of agriculture, said before the use of tobacco is condemned as a health menace certain questions need to be answered:

1. Why after years of research does the case against smoking still rest largely on statistics without clinical and laboratory verification?
2. Why have years of experimentation consistently failed to produce lung cancer in animals by inhalation of tobacco smoke?
3. Why have chemical tests been unable to establish any substance, as found in smoke, that accounts for lung cancer?
4. Why is the lung-cancer death rate in the British Isles about twice as high as in the United States even though per capita cigarette smoking is much higher here?
5. Why is there a sharp variation in lung-cancer rates from city to city and country to country irrespective of smoking patterns?
6. Why doesn't the disease strike a higher proportion of women, since they have been smoking more and more in the past 30 years? About 30 years ago there were three male deaths from lung cancer for every female death, but today the ratio is six men to every woman.

Albert G. Clay, Mount Sterling, Ky., president of the association, cautioned growers that unless flue-cured and burley quality improves we might see another disagreeable market season with a bigger percentage of tobacco going under Government loan.

Directors Elected

Elected at Monday's meeting were:

Paul Little, and W. H. Buckles, Lexington, Ky., directors of District 1, and Fred Wachs, Jr., and J. D. Marshall, both of Lexington, alternates; W. G. Wiglesworth, Jr., Cynthiana, Ky., and W. O. Newel, Somerset, Ky., directors in District 2, and J. H. Graves, Winchester, Ky., and Ansel R. Herndon, Danville, Ky., alternates; Sam Houtchens, Bloomfield, Ky., and A. K. Palmore, Horse Cave, Ky., directors in District 3, and Phil B. Wells, Glasgow, Ky., and J. W. Murray, Russellville, Ky., alternates.

Walter Sousley, Flemingsburg, Ky., and Mack Walters, Shelbyville, Ky., directors in District 4, and Earl Gardner, Tipton, Ohio, and Paul Carraco, Carrollton, Ky., alternates; Lawrence H. Russell, Tazwell, Tenn., and Ben D. Russell, Greeneville, Tenn., directors in District 5, and Barney A. Tucker, London, Ky., and E. H. Valentine, London, alternates; R. L. Trogdon, Springfield, Tenn., director in District 6, and C. Ray Ward, Sparta, Tenn., alternate; Par Bernard, Abingdon, Va., director in District 7, and Boyce Morrow, Madison, Ind., and Roscoe Coleman, Tabor City, N. C., alternates.

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